

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE FERN TOWN BOARD
December 11, 2023

Chairman Erwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also, present were Supervisor Drewa, Supervisor Saak, Treasurer Demko and Clerk De Clark.

Constituents present were Ann Drewa, Rich and Janet Wenzelow, Pam and Paul Batte, Joan, and Patrick Wloszczynski.

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Saak to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the town minutes from November 13, 2023.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Monthly Report

Treasurer Demko presented the monthly Treasurer's Report which included account balances and interest rates. Treasurer Demko stated that there is an outstanding check for \$2,830.03, check #21135 that was cancelled because it was almost a year old. Supervisor Drewa will check with the recipient to see if we should reissue the check or refund her in another manner.

Moved by Supervisor Saak to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Monthly Bills

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the monthly bills.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Madeleine Lane

Chairman Erwin stated that Joe had called him. Joe has all the necessary signatures of the people who live on the lane.

Chairman Erwin stated that he would check the wording of the document to be sure it is phrased correctly. He also stated that the residents will have to pay to bring the road to state requirement.

The issue was tabled until January's meeting.

Clerk

Chairman Erwin stated that he spoke with Lori the attorney for the WTA. She stated that most towns north of highway 64 are losing their clerks. She stated that the town can have an assistant to the clerk to be paid by the town. If the elected clerk leaves the position, then the appointed clerk would leave too. The appointed clerk does not need to be a resident of the town. The town will need to pass a referendum stating that the town is changing from an elected clerk to an appointed clerk. The referendum will be for the year 2025. The elected clerk will still be required to attend the town meetings and to sign checks.

The appointed clerk, Pam Batte, will receive a salary of \$1,000 per month and the clerk will receive an hourly rate of \$19 for any hours worked.

Moved to make Pam Batte the assistant to the clerk until the referendum can be passed was made by Supervisor Saak.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Utilities

Supervisor Drewa called the utility company about Walnut East. They stated that they would look at the trees that may be endangering the utility lines when they have a truck in the area.

Chestnut and Elm tree trimming is the responsibility of Florence Utilities.

Jack Pine Drive

Chairman Erwin stated the pit run has been on there for 30 years. These are improvements to the road and will continue to be done as in the past. Constituent Pat stated that this is a right of way issue too.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Saak stated that a resident of Turtle Creek Road came into the town dump with an enclosed trailer with mattresses in it. When informed that it was \$40 to dispose of the mattresses and \$5 for the tire the resident became irate.

Supervisor Drewa thanked Pat & Joanne W. for preparing the floors for the Baseman Brothers to come in to do the floors.

He stated that Basemen Brothers want to come in for \$1,300 a year to buff the floors to keep them looking nice. It was determined that this is not necessary.

Constituent Pat will look for protectors for the steps.

Supervisor Saak stated that someone would have to cover the dump for Saturday, December 24th. Chairman Erwin stated that he and Supervisor Drewa would split the shift. It was also determined that the dump would be closed on Christmas Day.

Supervisor Drewa stated that the light by the door is still not working.

Constituents Concerns

Constituent Pat stated that Jeff with one of the logging companies had asked the town to sand the hill on Walnut West Road. This section of the road belongs to Fence and Florence. Chairman Erwin will get a hold of Jim for Fence to see if he would like Fern to sand it for them at a cost.

Constituent Drewa inquired about the expense for EMS. She was informed that this is the annual fee for the EMS services.

Constituent Drewa also stated that on the Expense Sheet checks #21384 and #21377 were duplicated. Clerk De Clark stated that she would correct the error.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Saak.

Motion seconded Supervisor Drewa.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti De Clark, Town Clerk